

REMARKS

In response to the final office action dated 27 November 2006, the applicant requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks. Claims 1, 3-17, 20-23, 25-29, and 31-36 are pending in the application. Claim 16 will be amended, and claim 17 will be canceled, upon entry of the present amendment. As a result, claims 1, 3-16, 20-23, 25-29, and 31-36 will be pending upon entry of the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The final office action indicated that claims 1, 3-15, 22-23, 25-29, and 31-33 are allowed.

Interview Summary

The applicant thanks Examiner Stephen D'Agosta for the courtesy of a telephone interview on Thursday, February 8, 2007 with the applicant's representative Robert E. Mates. Examiner D'Agosta left a voicemail message indicating that claim 16 would be allowable if amended to include the features of claim 17.

Rejections of Claims Under §103

Claims 16 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daniel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,075,484) in view of Yun (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,295) and Keskitalo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,345,188) and Scarpetta et al. (U.S. 5,257,031). Claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daniel et al., Yun, Keskitalo et al., and Scarpetta et al., and further in view of Roddy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,127,740). The applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 16 will be amended upon entry of the present amendment to recite features found in claim 17. The applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 16 is in condition for allowance, as suggested by Examiner D'Agosta in the voicemail message left with Robert E. Mates on Thursday, February 8, 2007.

Claims 20 and 21 are dependent on amended claim 16, and recite further features with respect to claim 16. For reasons analogous to those stated above, and the features in the claims, the applicant respectfully submits that claims 20 and 21 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION


The applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone attorney Robert Mates at 612-373-6973 to discuss any questions which may remain with respect to the present application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

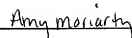
Respectfully submitted,

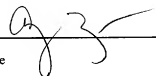
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Date 26 February 2007 By 
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 26th day of February 2007.


Name


Signature